

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 21, 2006, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment no claims are added or cancelled so that claims 2-9 and 11-20 remain pending.

Claims 2-8, 11-13 and 19 are allowed.

Examined claims 14-16 and 20 were objected to but not rejected. In this Amendment those claims are rewritten in independent form and should now be allowed.

In this Amendment claim 9 is amended, consistent with the disclosure of the patent application pertaining to Figure 15. As previously described, claim 9 particularly encompasses that embodiment. As can be seen in Figure 15, as a result of the formation process described in the patent application, the second X-ray absorber portions 130 are wider than the first X-ray absorber portions 120. Moreover, the first X-ray absorber portions are centrally located with respect to the corresponding second X-ray absorber portions 130. As a result, the side surfaces of the second X-ray absorber portions overhang the side surfaces of the first X-ray absorber portions. This relationship is described in amended claim 9. The amended claim describes expressly the side surfaces of the respective X-ray absorber portions and states that those side surfaces are not contiguous, meaning that they do not share a common edge or surface.

Claims 9, 17, and 18 were rejected as unpatentable over Morales (U.S. Patent 6,810,104) in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,005,075, hereinafter Kobayashi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kobayashi was cited only with respect to the provision of an X-ray transmitter. Therefore, the propriety of the rejection depends upon the disclosure of Morales. The Examiner directed attention to Figures 13A-16B of Morales. The Examiner relied upon the metal elements 30' as providing both the first and second X-ray absorber portions. An imaginary division between upper and lower parts of those metallic

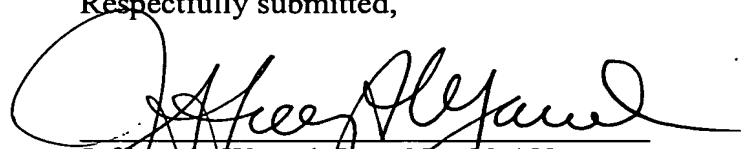
elements 30' was interposed so that the upper parts, in combination with the narrower lower parts, were considered to meet all of the limitations of the final two paragraphs of claim 9. However, there is a clear difference between the structure of those elements 30' in Morales' Figure 16B and the embodiment of Figure 15 of the patent application. That difference is the absence in Morales of a step between all side surfaces of the first and second X-ray absorber portions. It can be seen in Figure 16B of Morales that one of the side surfaces of each of the purported first and second X-ray absorber portions lies in the same plane. Depending upon the shape of those X-ray absorber portions in plan view, those surfaces may form a common surface. In other words, the two side surfaces may be considered coplanar. Certainly, those two side surfaces, if they exist due to the imaginary horizontal dividing plane, are contiguous. The two surfaces at the opposite side of the metallic element 30' are clearly not coplanar or contiguous because a step is present where those two X-ray absorber portions join each other.

In amended claim 9, no side surface of the first X-ray absorber portions is contiguous with any side surface of the second X-ray absorber portions. Since neither Morales nor Kobayashi describes what appears in amended claim 9, no combination of those patents could establish *prima facie* obviousness as to the claim 9 that is presented here.

Claims 17 and 18 were similarly rejected. Those claims depend from claim 9, which is now clearly distinct from the asserted combination of Morales and Kobayashi. It follows that claims 17 and 18 are patentable because claim 9, as presented here, is patentable. Therefore, there is no further comment with respect to the rejections of those claims 17 and 18.

Since the foregoing Amendment places all pending claims in form for allowance, prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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